

REMARKS


Claims 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Goetz et al. (US 6,674,280). Claim 23 has been amended to include distinguishing limitations of the invention not found or suggested by Goetz et al. Claims 1-4, 6-13 and 15-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over SU 1574804 in view of Goetz et al. Applicant has amended the claims to place them in condition for allowance and requests reconsideration. Minor objections to the specification and claims 7 and 18 were addressed in Applicant's previous response filed 21 July 2004.

Neither Goetz et al. or SU 1574804 (alone or combined) disclose or suggest the use of an additional magnetic sensor for the purpose of distinguishing the influence on a first magnetic sensor due solely to a magnetic field source from the influence of a magnetic field not produced by said magnetic field source. Applicant submits that these amendments represent novel and nonobvious features of the claimed invention which do not raise new issues. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that amended claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-13, 15-19 and 21-24 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be advantageous in advancing the prosecution of this application, he is invited to call to the undersigned at (281) 285-4562.

Schlumberger Technology Corporation
Sugar Land Product Center
IP Law and Contracts Dept.
200 Gillingham Lane, MD-9
Sugar Land, Texas 77478
(281) 285-4562
(281) 285-8821 Fax
Date 16-Sept-04

Respectfully submitted,


Victor H. Segura
Reg. No. 44,329
Attorney for Assignee